



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## MA Urban Design

Course Code: MAUDE

2021/22

## ***Award & Title***

## **MA Urban Design**

### **Material Information Summary for 2021/22 Postgraduate Applicants**

Confirmed at 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

#### **General Information**

<b>Award</b>	Master of Arts Urban Design
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Post Graduate Diploma Urban Design Post Graduate Certificate Urban Design
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification &amp; Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England
<b>Course Lengths &amp; Standard Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length of the course is confirmed below and modes of delivery will be confirmed prior to the start date in line with Government guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 year (full time, campus based)</li><li>• 2 years (part time, campus based)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	City Campus, Leeds
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning">www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning</a> .  Admissions enquiries may be directed to:

[AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## Course Fees

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to: [Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## Timetable Information

Timetables will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Outlook Calendar
- ii) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- iii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

**Policies, Standards and Regulations** ([www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations))

**Standard Text:** There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

## Key Contacts

### Your Course Director

George Epolito

### Your Academic Advisor

To be confirmed at enrolment.

### Your Course Administrator

Sarah Bowler, [landscapearchitectureadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:landscapearchitectureadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

### Professional Body

Royal Town Planning Institute

### Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

Upon completion of the MA Urban Design, graduates will hold a fully accredited option known as a combined qualification which allows them to progress to Chartered Membership of the RTPI through its main route, the Licentiate Assessment of Professional Competence (APC).

The course has been developed with reference to the Urban Design Group's (UDG) capacity check, which defines professional competencies. The course prepares students so they may apply to become a Recognised Practitioner of the UDG. <http://www.udg.org.uk/join/recognisedpractitioner>

## Course Overview

### Aims

The MA Urban Design course aims to provide an education that stimulates academic achievement and personal initiative, and acquisition of inter- and trans- disciplinary knowledge and skills provided by a broad foundation of training. The course prepares students to engage in ever more diverse and dynamic landscapes of urban design

production, culture and politics, and addresses the wide range of tasks and modes of operation that practitioners engage in besides traditional work in the office. The program emphasises the urban coverage at various scales and complexities. To cover the diverse needs of the future practitioners, professionals and academics, this course employs a research by design based approach to understanding national and international cities. The program attracts national and international students from a range of professions and students have the opportunity to engage with urban design agendas relevant to places across the world, thus opening up many opportunities in design, planning, architecture, policy making and other related fields. The course uses a strategy of applying theory and practice to provide an understanding of the complexity of creating spaces across different morphological layers. Students are provided with a comprehensible yet flexible framework of study which becomes the broad and comprehensive context from which students critically assess a site within a city, testing appropriate design interventions. Importantly, students can understand the 'impact' of these changes and policy interventions.

The students enrolled on the MA Urban Design course benefit from being part of the larger Master of Architecture and MA Architecture Futures cohort for studio based activities. The course seeks to educate students through strong research methodologies that inform research-led design. It introduces students to postgraduate research and develops appropriate design research philosophies, methodologies, skills, knowledge and critical judgment appropriate for advanced studies in urban design whilst developing professional communication skills and presentation techniques appropriate to postgraduate study. Modules instil self-motivation, self-reliance and personal responsibilities.

The course places a strong emphasis on the studio, where series of modules aimed at developing solutions to urban design problems in complex urban contexts that challenge the role of the designer in the city are sited. Site visits and study trips, nationally and internationally inform the design research. Within this context students develop their personal interests and an individual approach to design. Studio work is supported by Critical Urban Context Studies in the areas of history, contemporary criticism and social agency; urban and digital technology studies with consultancy from advanced practice and professional studies operating in connection with local practices. Our MA Urban Design studio projects will address the crucial issues such as: re-appropriation, reuse and recycling of space, buildings and materials, density and land use, technological innovations and their implications on the globalised city, morphologies of cities, urban forestry, infrastructure and mobile systems, resilient cities and temporary urbanism, design agency and its forms of social engagement, use of computational techniques in urban design to produce solutions with social systems and the innovative integration of media and design. Students are encouraged to explore these themes in relation to city, regional and global perspectives.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

The course meets the RTPi Learning Outcomes Matrix for Postgraduate Courses for Specialist Planning Programs and the course wishes to detail the four 'bespoke learning outcomes'.

The learning outcomes have been introduced, further work developed, and/or assessed.

Introduced = the learning outcome is first presented to the student

Further work/Consolidated = the topic is developed further, allowing the student to engage with the concept on a deeper critical or intellectual level – the student is able to engage in discussion about the concept

Assessed = the student's knowledge of the concept presented in the learning outcome is tested

**RTPI Learning Outcomes**

**Core Modules - How the Learning Outcomes are met by the modules contained in the Course Specification and Module Specifications**

	<b>Module Names</b>					
<b>Spatial Learning Outcomes</b>	Critical Urban Contexts (Sem 1)	Urban Design Studio One (Sem 1)	Urban Design Studio Two (Sem 2)	Research Methods (Sem 2)	Reflective Practice (Sem 3)	Advanced Urban Design Project (Sem 3)
<b>1. Engage</b> in theoretical, practical and ethical debate at the forefront of the area of the specialism in the context of spatial planning	Introduced Further Work Outcome Assessed	Introduced Further Work		Further Work	Further Work Outcome Assessed	
<b>2. Evaluate</b> the social, economic, environmental and political context for the area of specialism	Introduced	Further Work	Introduced Further Work Outcome Assessed		Further Work	Further Work Outcome Assessed
<b>3. Evaluate</b> the distinctive contribution of the specialism to the making of place and the mediation of space		Introduced Further Work				Further Work Outcome Assessed
<b>4. Demonstrate</b> the relationship within a spatial planning content of the particular area of specialism to other specialist areas of expertise.			Introduced Further Work Outcome Assessed			Further Work Outcome Assessed
<b>5. Demonstrate</b> the type and quality of skills that would be expected of a graduate from this specialism undertaking the practice experience period of the APC						
<b>6. Assess</b> the contribution of the specialism to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change		Introduced Further Work	Further Work			Further Work Outcome Assessed

	<b>Module name</b>					
<b>In line with the RTPI's Learning Outcomes for Specialist Planning Programmes.</b>	Critical Urban Contexts (Sem 1)	Urban Design Studio One (Sem 1)	Urban Design Studio Two (Sem 2)	Research Methods (Sem 2)	Reflective Practice Report (Sem 3)	Advanced Urban Design Project (Sem 3)
1. An understanding and critical awareness of the historical and current application urban design theory.	Introduced Further Work Outcome Assessed			Introduced Further work Outcome Assessed		
2. Applying theory to practice by creatively and contextually generating urban design analysis to reach new conclusions.	Introduce Further Work	Further work	Outcome assessed		Further Work Outcome assessed	Outcome assessed
3. Developing and applying research, design skills and techniques in urban design.		Introduced Further Work	Further work Outcome assessed			Outcome assessed
4. Developing ambitious, effective and self-directed projects with a range of transferable skills appropriate to urban design practice.			Introduced Further Work	Further work Outcome Assessed	Outcome assessed	Further work Outcome assessed

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

The University's Education Strategy for Level 7 is based on a research informed teaching environment (LBU Education Strategy 2016-2020). The Learning pathway emphasis at level 7 is upon the transformation of students into sophisticated, independent, critical thinkers, able to apply their knowledge with originality within advanced academic and professional contexts. Level 7 is as much about transition and we will support this transition so that all students will become confident in their academic and professional abilities and able to apply their knowledge and skills within complex situations. Through study at this level, students will have a thorough understanding of research, both as a practice and as a product, and be fully prepared for further development in either an academic, or professional, environment. Our vision is: *"to be acknowledged for our commitment to student success, our innovation and enterprise, our global reach and strong local impact"*.

Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary design projects for exploring, testing and demonstrating the application of theory to practice relevant current workplace design challenges. These projects are supported by the acquisition of knowledge and understanding through lectures, visits, seminars, workshops and studio tutorials. In pursuit of

capability and independence in learning, students' programmes of study are customized to suit the individual needs and prior learning experiences through the use of a learning agreement.

Modules are generally project based and the nature of projects can vary, not only between modules, but also because the course aims to utilise opportunities for external or externally-related projects when these arise. Because of this the balance of studio work, lectures, visits, presentations, tutorials, seminars etc. can vary not only from module to module but also from year to year in the same module.

Student's evidence their achievements through the development of a portfolio, which includes their projects and reports. On completion of the course students present their portfolio in an exhibition format. The end of year exhibition and student prizes celebrates student achievement.

### Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

<b>Level 7</b>			
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Critical Urban Contexts (30 credits)	<b>Y</b>	Urban Design Studio Two (40 Credits)	<b>Y</b>
Urban Design Studio One (30 Credits)	<b>Y</b>	Research Methods (20 Credits)	<b>Y</b>
<b>Level 7</b>			
<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>		
Reflective Practice Report (30 Credits)	<b>Y</b>		
Advance Urban Design Project (30 Credits)	<b>Y</b>		

### Course Structure Part-time

<b>Level 7</b>			
<b>Year 1, Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Year 1, Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Critical Urban Contexts (30 credits)	<b>Y</b>	Research Methods (20 Credits)	<b>Y</b>
<b>Level 7</b>			
<b>Year 1, Semester 3</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>		
Reflective Practice Report (30 Credits)	<b>Y</b>		

<b>Level 7</b>			
<b>Year 2, Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Year 2, Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Urban Design Studio One (30 Credits)	<b>Y</b>	Urban Design Studio Two (40 Credits)	<b>Y</b>
<b>Level 7</b>			
<b>Year 2, Semester 3</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>		
Advance Urban Design Project (30 Credits)	<b>Y</b>		

The option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules.

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### Assessment

On this course students will be assessed through a broadly even mix of coursework and portfolio

### Workload

<b>Overall Workload for the Course</b>	<b>Level 7</b>
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	180 hours
Independent Study	1620 hours
Placement	N/A hours

## Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, call into or contact the Student Advice Hub on either campus. This team, consisting of recent graduates and permanent staff, are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. There is a Student Advice Hub on the ground floor of the Rose Bowl at City Campus and one in Campus Central at Headingley. You can also find the team in the Gateway in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus. Email enquiries may be directed to [studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.